

**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

**Church World Service Records, 1925-1969**



<http://www.cwsglobal.org/>©

Finding Aid prepared by: Fatoma Rad and Brigette C. Kamsler, May 2013  
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**Summary Information**

Creator: Church World Service  
Title: Church World Service Records  
Inclusive dates: 1925-1969  
Bulk dates: 1945-1950  
Abstract: Church World Service (CWS) founded in 1946, merged three pre-existing organizations. Continues to provide aid and support worldwide after merge with National Council of Churches in 1965. Collection contains minutes, reports, personal accounts and publications.  
Size: 5 boxes, 1.75 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

**Administrative Information**

- Provenance:** The papers are part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Collection, which was founded in 1945 by the Union Theological Seminary Board of Directors.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Church World Service Records, series #, box # and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

**History**

The Church World Service (CWS) was founded in 1946, with a mission of “Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless.” It merged three pre-existing groups: the Church Committee for China Relief, the Church Committee for Relief in Asia, and the Church Committee for Overseas Relief and Reconstruction. A total of seventeen denominations, both Catholic and Protestant, formed CWS in order to provide aid such as food, clothing and medical supplies to those affected by World War Two. Successful programs included the Immigration and Refugee Program, Christian Rural Overseas Program and One Great Hour of Sharing, which still exist today.

In the 1950s and 1960s, CWS expanded from Europe and Asia to assistance in Africa and Latin America. It was also during the 1960s that the organization began to provide funds for development along with pre-existing emergency aid. In 1965, CWS merged with the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States: Division of Overseas Ministries. Aside from their help to overseas, in 1970 CWS began serving the United States during disaster.

Much of CWS’s success is due to partnerships, and some of which have separated to create other organizations such as the Middle East Council of Churches, the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh or CEPAD in Nicaragua.

CWS is still active today in over thirty countries. The National Council of Churches considers it a sister agency that focuses on “humanitarian ministries and relief, providing essential support for the immigration ministries of communions, councils of churches and congregations.”

**Sources:**

“Church World Service Immigration Programs.” National Council of Churches USA Website. <http://www.nccusa.org/immigration/immigcws.html> (accessed 08 May 2013).

"History: Who We Are." Church World Service Official Website, <http://www.cwsglobal.org/who-we-are/history.html> (accessed 02 May 2013).

"Purpose." One Great Hour of Sharing. <http://onegreathourofsharing.org/purpose/> (accessed 02 May 2013).

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is divided into three series:

- **Series 1: Administrative Information, 1925- 1950 (2 Boxes, 0.75 linear feet)**  
This series contains articles and documents that deal with organization and management of CWS. The series contains meeting minutes as well as minutes from different groups along with by laws and various reports. The collection contains financial papers detailing where and to whom the money and donations were sent.
- **Series 2: Publications, 1937-1969 (2 Boxes, 0.75 linear feet)**  
This series contains articles before they were published along with their published materials. It contains oversized posters, flyers, brochures and general material that were used to help market the Organization's goals and programs. This series also contains brief information about their Displaced Persons Program and One Great Hour of Sharing. Included are official letters that were sent by the CWS leaders along with some confidential reports that were to remain unpublished. The Interchurch Newsletter is also contained in this collection containing articles that make mention of CWS.
- **Series 3: Personal Accounts, 1945-1951 (1 Box, 0.25 linear feet)**  
This series contains personal stories from those who worked for CWS and their experiences of helping those who needed aid. Members of note include Abbe Livingston Warnshuis, who was Executive Vice President. The accounts originate from various locations in Europe and Asia.

### Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Metal staples were left in some items to prevent document(s) from tearing. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Some articles were kept together with glue and/or tape; they were not separated to prevent damage(s) to the documents.

### Further Sources

The main repository of archival records of the National Council of Churches is The National Archives of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, PA. The collection also contains Church World Service records. Access the finding aids for these records at [http://www.history.pcusa.org/collections/findingaids/ncc\\_list.cfm](http://www.history.pcusa.org/collections/findingaids/ncc_list.cfm).

The Yale Divinity School Library houses a small collection of CWS records. More information can be viewed online at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/bibid/4077914>.

Further material relating to Church World Service is located in The Williams Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives, specifically the National Council of Churches Records. There are also related collections from Abbe Warnshuis, and further collections documenting the geographical locations from Europe and Asia. Information on available collections can be found online at: <http://library.columbia.edu/content/libraryweb/indiv/burke/archives.html> or by contacting Archives staff via e-mail: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu).

The Burke Library contains further information pertaining to the Church World Service including periodicals. For further information on what the library has, please search the Columbia Library Catalog: [www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/clio/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/clio/).

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Administrative Information, 1925-1950**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	By-Laws and Historical Information, 1946-1946
1	1	2-4	Minutes 1945-1950
1	1	5	Japan, Korea, Okinawa Committee Meeting Minutes, 1947-1948
1	1	6	South East Asia Committee and India Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes, 1947-1948
1	1	7	Annual Meeting, February 16, 1949
1	1	8-9	Monthly Reports, 1946-1947
1	1	10	Treasury Reports, 1946-1947
1	2	1	Summary of Aid Shipped and Received, 1945-1947
1	2	2	Committee Reports and Briefings, 1946-1947
1	2	3	Reports by Country, 1945--1947
1	2	4	Reports and Correspondence, 1925-1949

### **Series 2: Publications, 1937-1969**

2	1	1-5	Material Ready to be Published 1937-1951
2	1	6	Published News Release, 1949
2	1	7	Confidential Reports, 1947
2	1	8-9	Addresses, 1946-1951
2	1	10	Published <i>Church World Service News</i> , 1946-1949
2	2	1	Brochures, Pamphlets, Information Sheets, 1944-1950
2	2	2	Church World Service News and Other Newsletters, 1943-1950
2	2	3	Programs and Events, 1947-1950
2	2	4	Displaced Persons Program, 1946-1950
2	2	5	Collaborative Organization Publications: Interchurch Newsletter, 1969
2	2	6	Posters, [194?]

### **Series 3: Personal Accounts, 1946-1951**

3	1	1-4	Personal Stories 1946-1951
3	1	5	Letters of Gratitude, 1950
3	1	6	Pleas from Countries, 1946-1948